WHEN DOORS IN HEAVEN OPEN WIDE

-A POEM BY SH ABU TAUBA MUKHLIS

EVIDENCES WITH EXPLANATORY TITLES BY

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WITH AN ADDENDUM ON SOME DIRECTIVES FOR A PRODUCTIVE RAMADAN

JANUARY,2025 | RAJAB, 1446

Introduction

In the name of Allah, The Entirely Merciful, The Especially Merciful.

All praise belongs to the bountiful Lord. May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his kin, his companions and all those who follow their path. Ultimate strength and power lie with Allah.

To proceed,

This booklet is a compilation of evidences - from the Qur'an and Sunnah[1]- for the poem, **When doors in Heaven open wide** by **Sh Abu Tauba Mukhlis**. All the information presented by the Sheikh in the poem is supported by the texts, as you'll see. To facilitate understanding, I have also included explanatory headings within the poem.

With Ramadan just around the corner, I felt the need to contribute for the following two reasons: to fulfil the principle that we must learn about what we are obligated to do, and to help myself and Muslims prepare for Ramadan. Since Ramadan is obligatory upon us, we are obligated to learn its fundamentals, rulings, nullifiers etc. before commencing it. Therefore, these two reasons are the motivation behind this compilation.

However, the question arises: why a poem? Why not use one of the prose written on this topic? The answer lies in the fact that poetry is generally easier to memorize and retain than prose. Plus, poetry can pack a lot of information into just a few words[2], saving time in the memorization process compared to prose.

I ask Allah for forgiveness for myself, my parents, my teachers, and also for Sheikh Abu Tauba and his teachers.

Abdul Hannan Umar

January, 2025 | Rajab, 1446

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[1] The majority of the evidences from the Sunnah were sourced from the English Translation of Bulugh al-Maram.

[2] Consider the following hadith! The Prophet said: **"When the month of Ramadan starts, the gates of Heaven are opened, the gates of the Hellfire are locked and the devils are chained."** The Sheikh versified this hadith with the following two lines **When doors in heaven open wide. And hell is locked, devils inside.**

WHEN DOORS IN HEAVEN OPEN WIDE

When doors in heaven open wide,

And hell is locked,… devils inside.

Commentary

Abu Hurayra reports the prophet as saying ; **“When the month of Ramadan starts, the gates of Heaven are opened, the gates of the Hellfire are locked and the devils are chained.”** Collected by al Bukhari

HOW TO KNOW THE MONTH OF RAMADAN HAS BEGUN, THE INTENTION FOR FASTING, VIRTOUS DEEDS AND ETIQUETTE

When Sha'ban month strikes 29,

The Muslims search the sky to find.

The Ramadan new moon approaches,

with Taqwa, blessings and good hopes.

So if they sight the moon, we fast.

and when it's cloudy, 30 past.

From Shabaan before Ramadan,

the month of fasting and Quran,

the month we pray the tarawee'h,

and wake up early when we sleep.

Commentary

"Ramadan is the month in which the Quran was revealed. Guidance for humanity, and clear portents of guidance, and the Criterion. **Whoever of you witnesses the month, shall fast it.**" (Quran 2:185)

Ibn 'Umar reported that he heard Allaah's messenger (r) say,

"Fast when you see it (the new moon), and break your fast when you see it; but if the weather is cloudy, calculate when it should appear." Collected by al-Bukhaaree and Muslim. Muslim's version has, "…if it is cloudy, calculate thirty days." al-Bukhari has, "Complete the period as thirty."

Aboo Hurayrah related that Allaah's Messenger (r) said, "He who prays during the nights of Ramadaan faithfully and seeking his reward from Allaah will be forgiven his past sins." Collected by al-Bukhari and Muslim

THE BEGINNING AND END OF A FASTING DAY, THE NECESSITY OF MAKING THE INTENTION EACH NIGHT, AND THE OVERALL OBLIGATION OF FASTING.

The Sunnah is to eat and drink,

a light suhoor ’fore fajr's brink.

And then, from sunrise till it sets,

we fast and leave all nourishment.

It's what strong Muslims have to do,

obligating me and you

to intend the night before,

a day of fasting for your Lord.

<u>Commentary</u>

“…and eat and drink **until the white streak of dawn can be distinguished from the black streak**. Then complete the fast until nightfall.” (Quran 2:187)

Anas bin Mâlik stated that Allâh’s Messenger (r) said, **“Take a meal (just) before dawn, for there is a blessing in Sahur (taking a meal) at that time.”** [Agreed upon].

Hafsah, the mother of the believers, narrated that the Prophet (r) said, **“He who does not express his intention of fasting before the dawn is not credited with it.”** Collected by the five; at-Tirmithee and an-Nasaa’ee said that it is traced back just to the companions, not to the Prophet (r). Ibn Khuzaymah and Ibn Hibbaan declared it sound with a full chain of narrators.

Daaraqutnee has**, “He who does not express his intention to fast the night before fasting is not credited with observing a fast.”**

ALLAH DESIRES EASE FOR YOU, AND DOES NOT DESIRE HARDSHIP FOR YOU

But for the traveler or the sick,

this obligation doesn't stick.

And girls when menses come your way,

you must stop fasting right away.

Commentary

“Whoever of you witnesses the month, shall fast it. **But whoever is sick, or on a journey, then a number of other days.** Allah desires ease for you, and does not desire hardship for you, that you may complete the number, and celebrate Allah for having guided you, so that you may be thankful.” (Quran 2:185)

Hamzah ibn ‘Amr al-Aslamee said, “O Messenger of Allaah! I find myself strong enough to fast while traveling, would it be wrong for me to do so?” Allaah’s Messenger (r) replied, “It is an allowance given by Allaah, so that if anyone is not capable he has done no wrong, and if anyone wishes and is able to fast he would not be guilty of sin.” Collected by Muslim.

THE FOLLOWING INVALIDATE A FAST: SELF INDUCED VOMITING, AND INTENTIONALLY EATING OR DRINKING.

And those that make themselves throw up[3],

or sneak and eat, they should grow up.

'Cause those are two dumb dirty tricks

that break a fast, you'll have to fix.

Commentary

"**These are the limits of Allah, so do not come near them.** Allah thus clarifies His revelations to the people, that they may attain piety." (Quran 2:187)

Aboo Hurayrah stated that Allaah's Messenger (r) said, **"If one has a sudden attack of vomiting (while he is fasting) he is not required to repeat the fast, but he who vomits intentionally must repeat the fast on another day."** Collected by the five; Ahmad declared it defective, but Daaraqutnee declared it sound.

[3] To make oneself throw up means to vomit voluntarily.

UNDERSTANDING THE PURPOSE OF FASTING, WHAT TO SAY WHEN PROVOKED WHILE FASTING, AND PRACTICING APPROPRIATE ETIQUETTES

Allah don't need us not to eat

if we still lie and act like creeps.

When we fast we're generous.

We read the Qur'an and we don't rush.

When you're fasting, play it cool,

and don't respond to every fool.

But if somebody disturbs your vibe,

"I'm fasting," twice is our reply.

Remember not to sleep all day,

or talk too much, with too much play.

Commentary

"O you who believe! Fasting is prescribed for you, as it was prescribed for those before you, **that you may become righteous.**" (Quran 2:183)

The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said, "When any one of you is observing Saum (fasting) on a day, he should neither indulge in obscene language nor should he raise the voice; and if anyone reviles him or tries to quarrel with him he should say: **'I am fasting"'** [Al-Bukhari and Muslim].

Aboo Huryarah narrated from the Prophet (r) that he said, "If any of you ends up fasting one day, he should avoid lewdness and foolishness. And if a man curses him or fights with him, let him tell him, **'I am fasting. I am fasting.'** " [Al-Bukhari].

Aboo Hurayrah reported that Allaah's Messenger (r) said, **"If one does not abandon false statements and acts, and foolishness; Allaah has no need that he should abandon food and drink."** [Al-Bukhari and Abu Dawud].

KNOWING WHEN THE FASTING DAY ENDS, THE SUPPLICATION BEFORE BREAKING THE FAST, AND RECOMMENDED FOODS TO BREAK YOUR FAST WITH.

Then soon as we can't see the sun,

from way up high...our fast is done.

The devil loses, and we win.

“Oh Allah, forgive our sin.

The thirst is gone, the veins are wet.

We hope that the reward is set.”

Like this, we pray before we eat,

then Bismillah to start the feast.

First with dates, or water if

there are no dates to start it with.

When no water, eat a sweet,

but do not wait to start to eat.

<u>Commentary</u>

“…and eat and drink until the white streak of dawn can be distinguished from the black streak. Then complete the fast until nightfall.” (Quran 2:187)

Marwan ibn Salim al-Muqaffa' said:

I saw Ibn Umar holding his beard with his hand and cutting what exceeded the handful of it. He (Ibn Umar) said that the Prophet (ﷺ) said when he broke his fast: **Thirst has gone, the veins are moist, and the reward is sure, if Allah wills.** [Abu Dawud].

Narrated Salmân bin ‘Aamir Ad-Dabbî : The Prophet said, “When one of you breaks his fast, **he should do so with some dates**; but if he cannot get any, **he should break his fast with water**, for it is purifying.” [Reported by Al-Khamsa. Ibn Khuzaima, Ibn Hibbân and Al-Hâkim graded it Sahih].

Sahl ibn Sa‘d reported that Allaah’s messenger (r) said, **“The people will continue to prosper as long as they hasten to break the fast.”** [Al-Bukhari and Muslim].

At-Tirmidhi reports from the Hadith of Abû Huraira (from the Prophet, who said that Allâh said, “The most beloved to Me of my slaves is the one who **hastens most in breaking the fast.**”

REPAYING FASTS MISSED DURING RAMADAN DUE TO SICKNESS, TRAVEL, MENSTRUATION OR OTHER VALID REASONS, AND THE KAFFARAH (EXPIATION) REQUIRED IF NOT REPAID BEFORE THE NEXT RAMADAN.

And if your fasting took a break

for sickness or for travel's sake,

just make it up some other day,

and if you don't, you gotta pay. (Kaffarah)[4]

Commentary

"Whoever of you witnesses the month, shall fast it. **But whoever is sick, or on a journey, then a number of other days.**" (Quran 2:185)

END OF POEM AND ITS EVIDENCES

[4] If one delays the payment of missed fasts till another Ramadan without any valid excuse, then they are required to pay a penalty. In addition to paying for the missed fasts, they must feed the poor for each day they've missed. For example, if they missed 3 days, then they're to fast for the 3 days and then feed the poor for 3 days. However, if they couldn't pay the missed fasts due to a valid reason like illness, pregnancy or breastfeeding, then they are required to only pay for the missed days when their excuse is removed.

SOME ESSENTIAL DIRECTIVES

Dear Muslim Brother/Sister,

1. Fast during Ramadan with the intention of pleasing only Allah, with faith and hope of gaining His reward. This will allow Allah to forgive your past sins.
2. Never intentionally eat or drink while fasting, as it is one of the greatest sins.
3. Stand in prayer during the nights of Ramadan, in Taraweeh and Tahajjud, especially during the last ten nights so that you may attain Laylatul Qadr and have your previous sins forgiven.
4. To increase the sanctity of your fast, ensure that your food and drink are pure and halal, and avoid anything impure and haram. This will also increase the chances of your du'a being accepted.
5. Provide iftar (food for breaking the fast) to others, even if it is just one person, so that you can receive the same reward as them.
6. Be punctual in observing the five daily prayers in congregation.
7. Be consistent and increase your giving in charity, as the best charity is done during Ramadan.
8. Avoid wasting your time and instead engage in virtuous acts like reciting the Quran, performing Zikr, and attending Tafseer circles. You will be questioned about how you used the time Allah has given you.
9. If you can afford it, try to perform Umrah during Ramadan.
10. Preserve your tongue from sins like lying, speaking ill of others, cursing, and gossiping, as these acts diminish the reward of your fast.
11. Do not let fasting cause you to become angry over small issues. Instead, fasting should enable you to be composed and calm, even if wronged by others.
12. Fasting should increase your piety by engaging in obligations and avoiding prohibited acts, both publicly and in private.

13. Increase in zikr and dua. Ask Allah to grant you Jannah and to protect you from Hell, especially when taking suhoor (pre-dawn meal), during the day while fasting, and when breaking your fast.
14. Pray for yourself in both this life and the hereafter, and do not forget your parents, siblings, family, teachers, friends, and all Muslims. Allah has commanded us to pray and ask anything from Him, and He has promised to grant our requests.
15. Repent sincerely to Allah for your actions and sins by leaving sinful behaviors, regretting past sins, and asking Allah for forgiveness. Have a strong resolve to not return to those sins.
16. Even after Ramadan, strive to remain firm in your faith by frequently reciting the Quran, praying on time and in congregation, increasing in piety, and staying consistent until you die.
17. Let the remnants of worship from salat, fasting, zakat, and hajj be apparent in your life by repenting sincerely to Allah and avoiding anything that is not congruent with Islam.
18. Follow Ramadan with the six days of fasting in Shawwal.

Oh Allah, let us reach Ramadan.

Make us among those who will fast Ramadan with faith and hope of gaining its reward so that our past sins will be forgiven.

Oh Allah, You are the Oft-Pardoning, the Oft-Forgiving, so pardon and forgive us.

Oh Allah, accept from us all, for You are indeed the All-Hearing, the All-Knowing. Ameen

Completed by the facilitation of Allah

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